GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3485
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2000
THREAT OF POLLUTION TO TAJ MAHAL AND KONARK TEMPLE
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any plans to save the Taj Mahal and Konark Temple of Orissa from the threat of pollution and other kind of such activities that can endanger the monuments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a)& (b): A scheme, namely, Taj Protection Mission is already under implementation to prevent the Taj Mahal from the threat of pollution. There is no such plan for the Konark Temple of Orissa.

Under the Taj Protection Mission the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has identified a number of projects which will lead to protection and improvement of the environment in the Taj Trapezium Zone. These projects relate to improvement of electricity supply, upgrading drinking water supply, drainage and sewage system, construction of roads, municipal solid waste management and afforestation. Projects are under way for improving the industrial processes and prevention of pollution from industries by use of cleaner fuels. Ambient air quality monitoring stations between Mathura and Agra have been set up by the Mathura Refinery. In addition, the U.P. Pollution Control Board has also provided a number of ambient air quality monitoring stations around the Taj Mahal. The Central Government has constituted a Taj Trapezium Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 equipped with various powers and functions for monitoring, planning and improving the environment in the area.